

DISC Newsletter

ELVIS LIVES!!!

By Morey Sullivan, DISC Deputy Director

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Rumors of the King's demise are true---the King of Rock and Roll is no longer with us. At least not in a conventional dimension! However, there is another ELVIS, and that one is alive, well and almost fully implemented. EL-V-I-S-Electronic Voter Information System is an application owned by the Kansas Secretary of State. It automates many of the functions of the voting process across the state. ELVIS is part of a national project to computerize voting processes across the country.

Deadlines for DISC to complete telecom connectivity to all 105 Kansas counties was tight, however, by using a team approach, the DISC deadlines were met. Members of the team included, several DISC staff members from BIS, BOT and BAS, vendor SBC, Secretary of State staff members and staff members from Dept. of Revenue. Each team member played an important role in the success of meeting the deadlines. For fear of accidentally omitting someone's name I won't attempt to mention all the DISC staff involved in the successful completion of connectivity for ELVIS. Instead I would like to mention Rick Willoughby's installation team, Bill Kelly's engineering team, Joe Hennes' BIS team and several out of the accounting team in BAS. Tim Haug of Bell and his staff did a good job of reacting to the state's needs and timelines. A special thank you goes to Glenn Yancey and Jerry Gibson of Revenue whose leadership and knowledge of the contacts in the counties was invaluable. Together this team met the deadline with a quality product.

Thanks to all who worked on ELVIS and congratulations on a job well done!!!

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DISC

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BABY BOOMERs IN THE WORKFORCE

By Charlene Atwood

Employees born from 1946-1964 are considered the "Baby Boomer" generation. This is the biggest generation in our time.

This generation has a huge influence on the social and political foundation of our society. They have transformed our culture and our economy---as far as the beverages we drink, television, medical, politics, to the technology we have today.

There are approximately 76 million baby boomers today. By 2005 half the people between the ages of 50 and 74 will be this generation.

Back in 1900, only 13% of the population was 50 or over. By 2020 the population of 50 and over will be over 35%.

Mature Americans make up 35% of the population and have 77% of the financial assets, and income.

As Boomers retire, some feel as if life is just beginning. Others travel, shop, spend time with their grand kids, and buy big ticket items. Some Baby boomers plan to continue working into their 70s due to ever-rising cost of insurance.

In turn, America will experience the greatest showing of wealth in world history. This era is at their peak of earning years as they enter their 50s.

In fact by 2011, the first members of this generation will reach retirement age. Thus creating significant challenges for the workforce. There will be a shortage of staff to fill vacant positions. There will be a shortage of historic information and the way we currently do business will be effected.

In this decade, the highest growth rate in the workforce will be workers aged 55-64.

By 2015, nearly 1 in 5 employees will be the age of 55 or older. In that time, people between the ages of 25-44 will actually decrease. Thus causing a critical shortage of qualified employees. With this being the largest group, a lot of employees can retire around the same time.

Most businesses are not prepared for this era to retire. By 2011, there will be more jobs than actual workers. By 2030 that number will increase by the millions.



Those employees born from 1946-1964 are considered the "Baby Boomer" generation. This is the biggest generation of our time. Generation Xers only make up 45 Million

Employee Information

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Jeff Muller

Daniel Force

Ryan Reinhart

Beth Zlotky

Daniel Holmes

Brian Frahm

Michael Hunt

Dan Czajkowski

Jesse Springer

Lynn Moon

Robert Michaelis

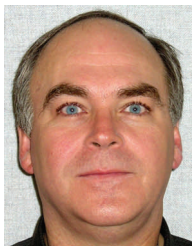
Larry Kettlewell

Larry Buckles

Mark Peralta

Jim Logan

New Employee



Kevin Cronister

NCC

January 3, 2006

In remembrance of
Randy Taylor
Our Friend and fellow Coworker



Memorial contributions are suggested to Randy's Children Education Fund sent in care of the funeral home. Randy is deeply loved and we will miss him.

You will be missed

BDAS

To: Josh White, Dallas Brown

I would like to express my appreciation to all staff that worked over the weekend to get W-2's printed accurately. Special thanks to Josh White and Dallas Brown who worked on Sunday after A&R was notified on Sunday around 1:00 p.m. that the decision had been made to stop print of the W-2's on Saturday. In order to continue the print process the staff made the extra effort to come in to provide the Excel file to Dallas so he could verify the data as W-2's printed and also made the decision to resend the file since they were aware of network problems on Friday when the file was originally transmitted. The same W-2 file and record count was transmitted and Dallas was able to restart the printing of W-2's. We are still not well informed on the file manipulation process that occurs after transmission and before printing of the W-2's but appreciate your confirmation that the W-2's have been printed accurately. Thanks again to everyone who helped in the W-2 process. Your efforts are appreciated!

From: Janice Magathan, Accounts and Reports

To: Randy Taylor, Jason Marsh and 851-S employees

Thank you for adopting a family for the Christmas holiday. Special thanks to Randy Taylor and Jason Marsh for coordinating this effort and for all their hard work. Thanks to everyone for the generous donation and presents.

From: Volunteer Center of Topeka

BIS

To: Helen Gibbon, Alex Bergquist and Operations Staff

I would like to express my extreme gratitude to Helen Gibbon, Alex Bergquist and all the operations staff for the tremendous effort they put into getting this years W2's printed. Because of numerous problems encountered this year, the regularly scheduled staff as well as many not scheduled to work, found themselves deep in problem resolution. Thanks to their dedication and willingness to give up their own New Year's Eve and New Year's Day plans, the W2's went out on schedule. Their dedication is truly appreciated. From: Marsha Rogers

To: Helen Gibbon and Marsha Rogers

I want to thank Helen Gibbon and Marsha Rogers for all their work in assisting our Agency over the past weekend. Their prompt assistance in researching our request allowed us early access to the mainframe during the maintenance window. It allowed us to begin our work and finish on time, there-by allowing the users to begin work on time Monday morning without down time.

Thank you so much. From: Kathie Harris, SRS

BOCS

To: Kevin Greenfield

Thanks for your prompt and friendly assistance with our printer. Sally and Kim were very grateful and we always appreciate your good help.

From: Amy Bertrand, Department of Administration Legal

CITA

To: Bill Roth

I have heard through the grapevine that you have been very supportive of KDOL to many people.

We appreciate your assistance and are very appreciative of your nice references to us. Thanks

From: Jeff Lewis, Kansas Department of Labor



DISC Projects

COX Metro-Area Network: DISC maintains the KANWIN Network which provides intranet and Internet services to state agencies and local units of governments. More and more sites had a growing demand for bandwidth and Ethernet connectivity. Through the RFP process DISC selected Cox Communications and has provided high-speed connectivity at a much lower cost than the current frame relay and IMA solutions. Currently there are 29 sites along with LSOB and ESOB connected with Phase III to come. **Project Manager: Bill Kelly**

KIRMS: The Kansas Information Resource Management System (KIRMS) is an integrated software tool, designed to track telecommunication services including moves, adds and changes as requested by the DISC customer. Additionally, KIRMS will provide a central data base of all telecommunications information including network availability, billing backing and work order history. KIRMS serves as a method to create and distribute invoices to the DISC customer. The billing function draws its data from the system data bases to create an invoice that expresses the work done and services provided. **Project Manager: Doug Quinn**

WLAN: The Wireless LAN (WLAN) service will allow agencies to securely connect to both KANWIN and to the Internet without having to connect via a traditional wired connection. The WLAN will provide a secure connection to KANWIN through a firewall and encryption will be required. The connection to the Internet will be through a firewall but there is no encryption requirement. WLAN Access Points will be installed at appropriate locations around the State of Kansas. The initial WLAN project involves installation in the Capitol Complex in Topeka and would include conference rooms and open areas such as the Statehouse rotunda, and connected into the DISC switched, wired infrastructure.

7Th floor remodel: On a more recent visit by Worldwide Environmental Services, they learned of higher than desirable variations in air quality in our 7th floor data center. They attribute this higher variance to what they call a poor vapor barrier. Another way to say that is the room is not well sealed. They pointed out several troublesome areas including the old storage boxes where mainframe customers used to pick up their listings. To correct these problems, BIS initiated yet another phase of data center refurbishment. This phase will basically finish the 7th floor in the same fashion used on the 8th floor. In addition to addressing the leaks in the vapor barrier, the Operator Console will be moved out of the data center and into the north side of the NCC room. That will not only bring us more in line with the "no permanent staff" in the data center rule, but also make more room available to host other agencies. **Project Manager: Marsha Rogers**

Disaster Recovery Plan for SHaRP: Loren Westerdale continues to work on the project to enhance the disaster recovery plans for Sharp. The previous plan was to have Sungard, the same company that provides our mainframe disaster recovery services, provide the services for Sharp. In that scenario, DISC would recover the Sharp application on hardware located at Sungard's Chicago recovery site. But, with the more complicated infrastructure used by Sharp when we moved to Web Based self service version, having that service provided by Sungard became very difficult if not impossible. The new plan takes advantage of the redundancy built into the Sharp infrastructure and the Offsite Data Center. Loren's project involves moving the redundant components of the infrastructure to the ODC along with the test and development servers. In the event of a disaster, our test/development activity would cease and production would be recovered on that hardware. Half of the Web components are located in the LSOB data center and other half in the ODC so an outage of either data center will not necessarily interrupt those services. The new plan has the potential of having Sharp back up in a couple of days versus weeks under the old plan.

State Human Resource and Payroll System (SHARP) Upgrade:

A large contingent of DISC staff, along with members of the Divisions of Accounts and Reports and Personnel Services, will be involved in an 18 month long project to upgrade the SHARP system to release 8.9. The project is being managed by Duncan Friend, with two primary managers from DISC, Loren Westerdale and Sarah Gigous and is currently in the final stages of planning and preparation with a planned start date of mid-February. The most recent upgrade to SHARP took place from June 2002 to June 2003 at a cost of

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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

Course content is so valuable to the DISC workplace environment that it is essential each staff member attend as soon as possible if you haven't already done so. This is the same training that was offered last year and had such good response, sign up now!

“LEADERSHIP IN PUBLIC SERVICE”

February 20-22, 2006

8:00 AM – 11:30AM

February 20-22, 2006

1:00PM – 4:30PM

ADDITIONAL SESSIONS WILL BE ADDED AS NEEDED

SKILLS YOU CAN EXPECT TO DEVELOP –

LEADERSHIP & PROFESSIONALISM *MOTIVATING PERFORMANCE*
WORKPLACE COMMUNICATIONS *ELIMINATING WORKPLACE HARASSMENT*
IMPROVING CUSTOMER SERVICE

TO RESERVE YOUR SPACE PLEASE CONTACT YOUR SUPERVISOR

(Each Session is limited to 20 participants)

CLASSES WILL BE HELD AT THE

KU PUBLIC MANAGEMENT CENTER

715 SW 10TH AVENUE, 4 BLOCKS FROM DISC